



# THE TALE OF TOM KITTEN



TM

BEATRIX POTTER

THE ORIGINAL AND AUTHORIZED EDITION

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THE TALE  
OF  
TOM KITTEN





# THE TALE OF TOM KITTEN

BY

BEATRIX POTTER

*Author of*

*"The Tale of Peter Rabbit", &c.*



FREDERICK WARNE

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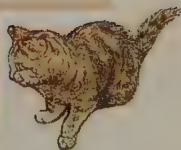
DEDICATED  
TO ALL  
PICKLES,  
—ESPECIALLY TO THOSE THAT  
GET UPON MY GARDEN WALL





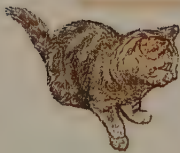
ONCE upon a time there were three little kittens, and their names were Mittens, Tom Kitten, and Moppet.

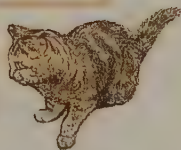
They had dear little fur coats of their own; and they tumbled about the doorstep and played in the dust.



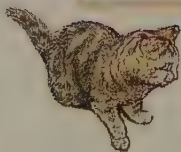
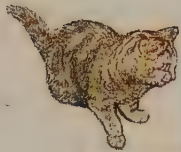


**B**UT one day their mother—  
Mrs. Tabitha Twitchit—  
expected friends to tea; so she  
fetch'd the kittens indoors, to  
wash and dress them, before  
the fine company arriv'd.









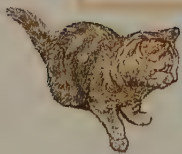


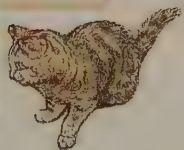
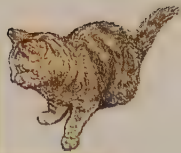
**F**IRST she scrubbed their  
faces (this one is Moppet).

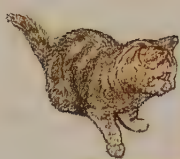




THEN she brushed their fur,  
(this one is Mittens).







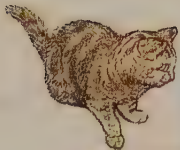




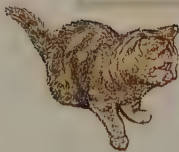
**T**HEN she combed their  
tails and whiskers (this  
is Tom Kitten).

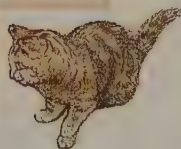
Tom was very naughty, and  
he scratched.

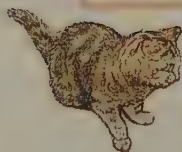
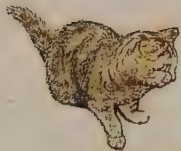




MRS. TABITHA dressed Moppet and Mittens in clean pinafores and tuckers; and then she took all sorts of elegant uncomfortable clothes out of a chest of drawers, in order to dress up her son Thomas.

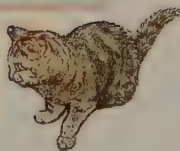




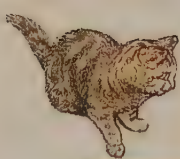




**T**OM KITTEN was very fat, and he had grown; several buttons burst off. His mother sewed them on again.

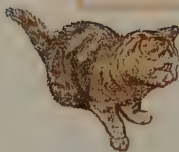




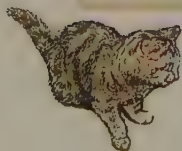


WHEN the three kittens were ready, Mrs. Tabitha unwisely turned them out into the garden, to be out of the way while she made hot buttered toast.

“Now keep your frocks clean, children! You must walk on your hind legs. Keep away from the dirty ash-pit, and from Sally Henny Penny, and from the pig-stye and the Puddle-Ducks.”





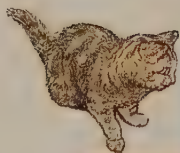




MOPPET and Mittens walked down the garden path unsteadily. Presently they trod upon their pinafores and fell on their noses.

When they stood up there were several green smears!



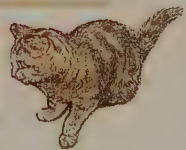


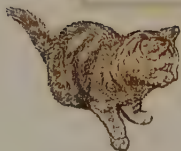
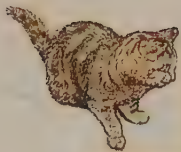
“**L**ET us climb up the rockery, and sit on the garden wall,” said Moppet.

They turned their pinafores back to front, and went up with a skip and a jump; Moppet’s white tucker fell down into the road.



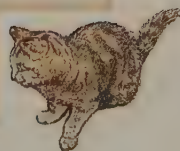


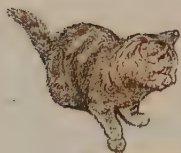






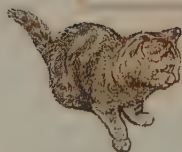
**T**OM KITTEN was quite unable to jump when walking upon his hind legs in trousers. He came up the rockery by degrees, breaking the ferns, and shedding buttons right and left.

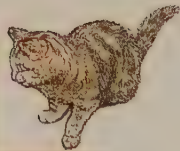


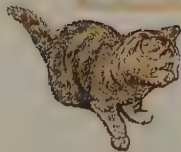
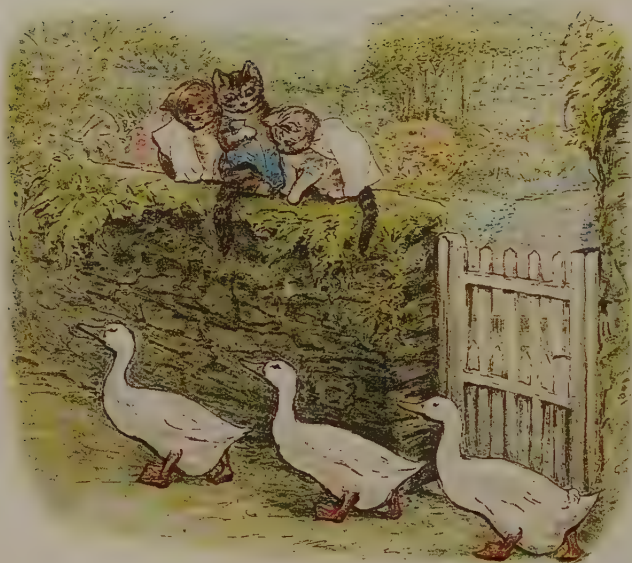


**H**E was all in pieces when he reached the top of the wall.

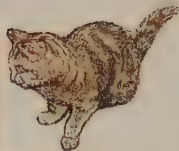
Moppet and Mittens tried to pull him together; his hat fell off, and the rest of his buttons burst.





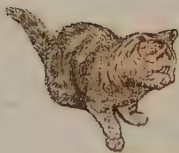




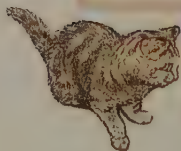


WHILE they were in difficulties, there was a pit pat paddle pat! and the three Puddle-Ducks came along the hard high road, marching one behind the other and doing the goose step—pit pat paddle pat! pit pat waddle pat!

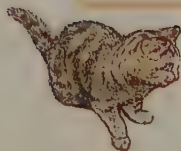
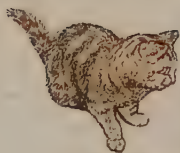




THEY stopped and stood  
in a row, and stared up  
at the kittens. They had very  
small eyes and looked sur-  
prised.









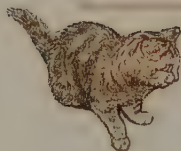
THEN the two duck-birds,  
Rebeccah and Jemima  
Puddle-Duck, picked up the  
hat and tucker and put them  
on.



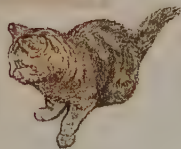


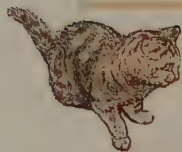
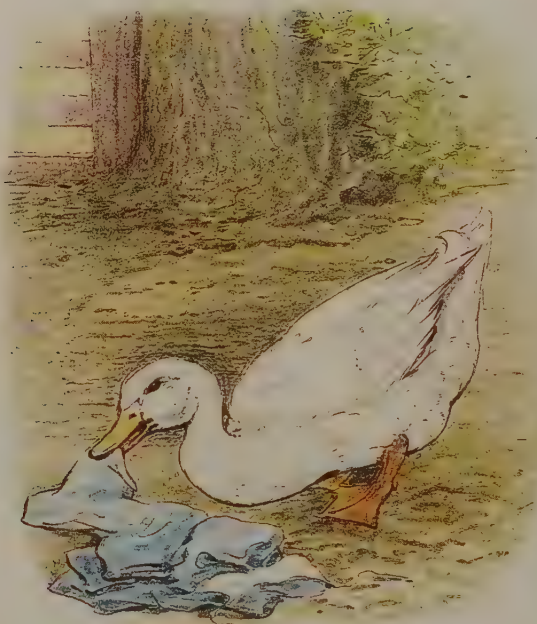
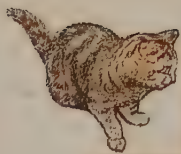
MITTENS laughed so that she fell off the wall. Moppet and Tom descended after her; the pinafores and all the rest of Tom's clothes came off on the way down.

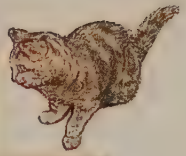
“Come! Mr. Drake Puddle-Duck,” said Moppet—“Come and help us to dress him! Come and button up Tom!”



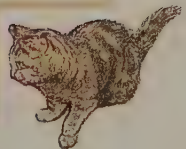


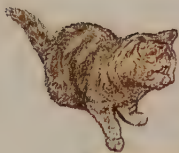






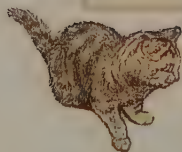
MR. DRAKE PUDDLE-  
DUCK advanced in a  
slow sideways manner, and  
picked up the various articles.



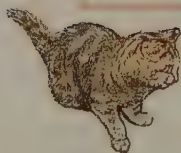
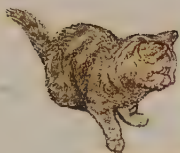


**B**UT he put them on *himself!* They fitted him even worse than Tom Kitten.

“It’s a very fine morning!”  
said Mr. Drake Puddle-Duck.





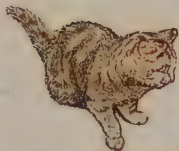




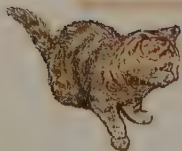
AND he and Jemima and  
Rebeccah Puddle-Duck  
set off up the road, keeping  
step—pit pat, paddle pat! pit  
pat, waddle pat!

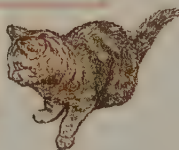


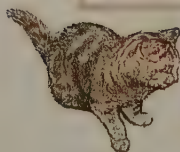


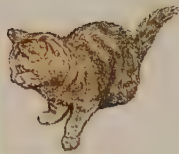


**T**HEN Tabitha Twitchit  
came down the garden  
and found her kittens on the  
wall with no clothes on.



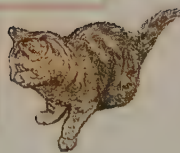


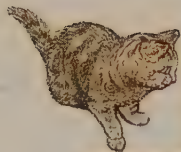




SHE pulled them off the wall, smacked them, and took them back to the house.

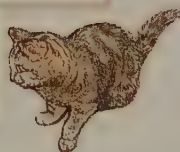
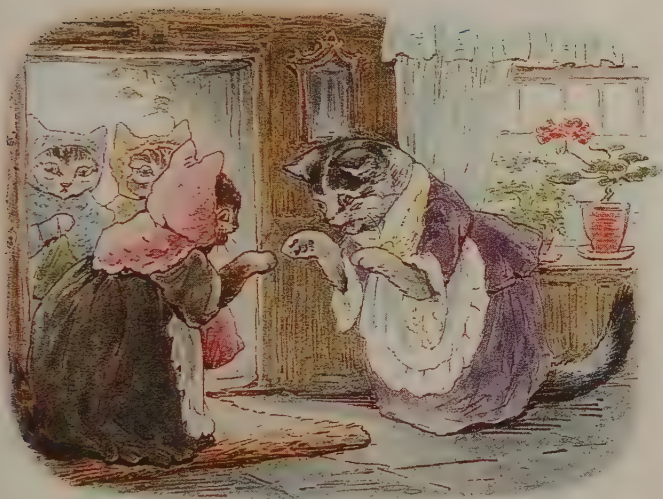
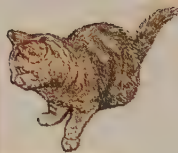
“My friends will arrive in a minute, and you are not fit to be seen; I am affronted,” said Mrs. Tabitha Twitchit.

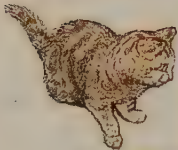




SHE sent them upstairs;  
and I am sorry to say she  
told her friends that they were  
in bed with the measles;  
which was not true.







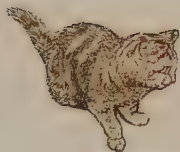




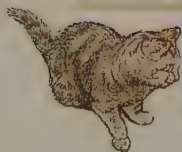
QUITE the contrary; they were not in bed: *not* in the least.

Somehow there were very extraordinary noises over-head, which disturbed the dignity and repose of the tea party.

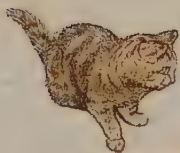




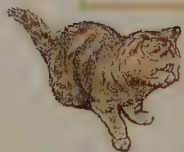
AND I think that some day  
I shall have to make  
another, larger, book, to tell  
you more about Tom Kitten!

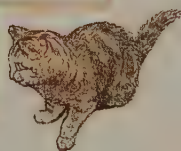
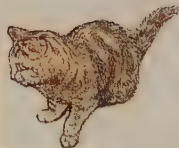


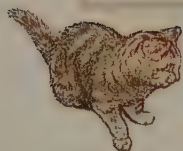
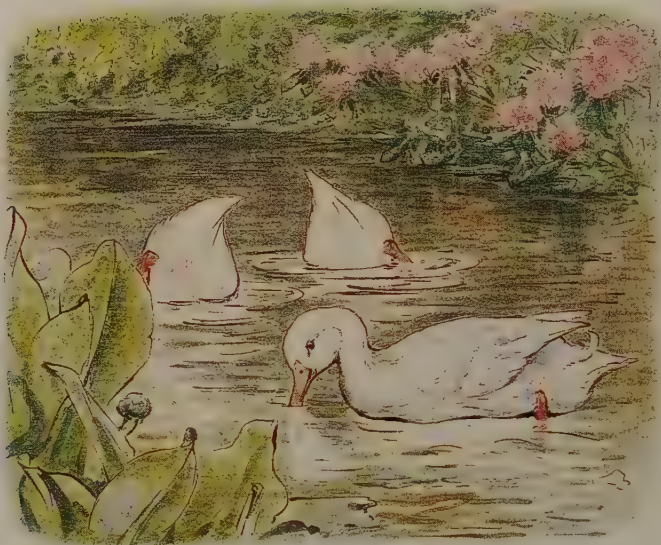
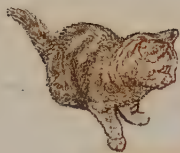




AS for the Puddle-Ducks—  
they went into a pond.  
The clothes all came off  
directly, because there were  
no buttons.





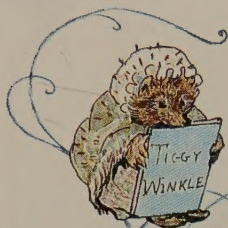




AND Mr. Drake Puddle-  
Duck, and Jemima and  
Rebeccah, have been looking  
for them ever since.











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